

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

[To accompany Joint Resolution S. 55.]

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LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF STATE

TO THE

*Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations, relative to certain presents intended by the Queen of Great Britain for Townsend Harris and H. C. J. Heusken.*

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DECEMBER 16, 1858.—Ordered to be printed.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
*Washington, December 9, 1858.*

SIR: I transmit a copy of a correspondence between this department and Lord Napier, her Britannic Majesty's minister, from which it will be perceived that the British government is disposed to present to Mr. Townsend Harris, the United States consul general in Japan, and to Mr. H. C. J. Heusken, his interpreter, a snuff-box, respectively, as a mark of its appreciation of their assistance to Lord Elgin, in his recent negotiation of a treaty between Great Britain and Japan. The expediency of authorizing the acceptance of the articles referred to is submitted to the consideration of the committee.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

LEWIS CASS.

Hon. JAMES M. MASON,

*Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations, Senate.*

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*Lord Napier to Mr. Cass.*

HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S LEGATION,  
*Washington, December 5, 1858.*

SIR: Her Majesty's government have learned with much gratification from the Earl of Elgin, that during the course of his lordship's

recent negotiation in Japan, he received the most friendly and effective assistance from the consul general of the United States in that country. Mr. Harris obligingly placed at the disposal of the Earl of Elgin the services of Mr. Heusken, the interpreter of the American consulate, who remained with her Majesty's legation for about a fortnight, and rendered by his knowledge, intelligence, and good will, an aid of which the value was warmly appreciated by Lord Elgin, and of which his lordship has written in the highest terms.

You are requested to accept the sincere acknowledgments of her Majesty's government for these good offices afforded to her Majesty's representative at an important conjuncture.

Her Majesty's government also hope that your influence may be kindly exerted in obtaining for Mr. Harris and Mr. Heusken, respectively, permission to accept a snuff box bearing her Majesty's cypher, which it is the intention of her Majesty the Queen to offer to each of those gentlemen as a mark of her gratitude.

I have the honor to be with the highest consideration, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

NAPIER.

HON. LEWIS CASS,

*Secretary of State, &c., &c., &c.*

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*Mr. Cass to Lord Napier.*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
Washington, December 7, 1858.

MY LORD: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your lordship's note of the 5th instant, acquainting me that it has happily been in the power of Mr. Harris, the consul general of the United States in Japan, to afford useful assistance to Lord Elgin in his lordship's negotiations with the government of that country, and who also placed at his disposal the services of Mr. Heusken, the interpreter of the American consulate; and requesting my influence in obtaining the necessary authority for the acceptance by Mr. Harris and Mr. Heusken, respectively, of a gold snuff box, bearing the royal cypher, as a mark of her Majesty's gratitude.

In reply, I have the honor to assure your lordship that it has given me great satisfaction to learn that officers of the United States have had it in their power to render to Her Majesty's government services so highly appreciated. I shall report the subject to Congress, which body, as your lordship is aware, is clothed with the necessary authority in regard to it.

I embrace this occasion, my lord, to offer to your lordship a renewed assurance of my very high consideration.

LEWIS CASS.

Lord NAPIER, &c., &c.